THE CLAIMS

1-84. (Cancelled)

85. (Withdrawn) A method of treating cells for use in cell transplantation, comprising:

administering to the cells a lentivirus encoding a connexin, whereby the connexin is expressed in the cells.

86. (Previously Presented) A method of treating cells for use in cell transplantation to improve their electrical conductivity, comprising:

administering to the cells a lentivirus encoding a connexin, whereby the connexin is expressed in the cells and improves the electrical conductivity of the cells, wherein the cells are selected from the group consisting of fibroblasts, mesenchymal stem cells, and cardiac stem cells.

87. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 86 wherein the connexin is connexin 43.

88. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 86 wherein the connexin is connexin 40.

89. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 86 further comprising the step of transplanting the treated cells into a recipient host mammal.

90. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 86 further comprising the step of transplanting the treated cells into a recipient host mammal's heart.

91. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 86 further comprising the step of transplanting the treated cells into a recipient host mammal's brain.

92. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 86 further comprising the step of transplanting the treated cells into a recipient host mammal's muscle.

93. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 86 further comprising the step of transplanting the treated cells into a recipient host mammal's uterus.

94. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 86 wherein the cells are fibroblasts.

95. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 86 wherein the cells are mesenchymal stem cells.

96. (Withdrawn The method of claim 86 wherein the cells are cardiac stem cells.

97. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 89 wherein the cells are autologous to the recipient host mammal.

98. (Cancelled)

99. (Cancelled)